

IN THE CLAIMS:

Page 11 ("AMENDED SHEET" from Preliminary Examination Report), before claim 1, insert the following new paragraph:

(New) What is claimed is:

This following list of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the above-identified application:

List of Claims

List of Claims is from the Preliminary Exam Amended Sheets:

Claim 1: (Original) A peelable lid structure for a container, the peelable lid structure including;

a barrier layer for preventing the passage of fluids; and

a tab extending from a centre panel of the peelable lid structure for removing the peelable lid structure from the container to allow access to the container contents;

in which the barrier layer includes less than 20 microns thickness of aluminum;

and in which the tab is folded over the centre panel and secured in the folded position on the centre panel for processing of can contents and/or handling operations.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The peelable lid structure according to as defined in claim 1, in which wherein the aluminum layer is not more than 15 microns in thickness.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The peelable lid structure according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which as defined in claim 1, wherein the peelable lid structure includes one or more of the following layers: polyethylene terephthalate (PET), aluminum, nylon and/or polypropylene.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The peelable lid structure according to any one of claims 1 to 3, in which as defined in claim 1 wherein the tab is secured in the folded position by an adhesive and/or by heat sealing.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The peelable lid structure according to claim 4, in which as defined in claim 4, wherein the tab or centre panel includes a patch, an area of which is exposed by a hole in the tab or centre panel respectively, and the tab is secured in the folded position by the adhesive or heat sealing to the exposed area of patch.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a peelable lid structure (1) having a centre panel (4) and a tab (3) extending from the centre panel (4), the method including folding the tab portion (3) of the peelable lid structure over the centre panel (4) and securing the tab (3) to the entire panel (4);

characterised by the steps of:

forming a hole (5) in a portion of a lidding material (6) corresponding to the centre panel (4) of the peelable lid structure (1);

covering the hole (5) by fixing a patch (8) to a first side of the lidding material, thereby forming an area of patch (8) exposed by the hole on the opposite side of the lidding material; and

cutting the peelable lid structure (1) out of the lidding material (6);

and characterised in that the folding tab (3) thereby covers the exposed area; and

securing of the tab (3) to the centre panel (4) is by heat sealing or bonding of the exposed region.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a peelable lid structure (1) having a centre panel (4) and a tab (3) extending from the centre panel (4), the method including folding the tab portion (3) of the peelable lid structure over the centre panel (4) and securing the tab (3) to the centre panel (4);

characterised by:

forming a hole (5) in a portion of a lidding material (6) corresponding to the tab (3) of the peelable lid structure; covering the hole (5) by fixing a patch to a first side of the lidding material, thereby forming an area of patch exposed by the hole on the opposite side of the lidding material; and cutting the peelable lid structure (1) out of the lidding material (6);

and characterised in that by folding the tab portion (3) of the peelable lid structure over the centre panel (4), the exposed region is covered by the centre panel; and

securing the tab (3) to the centre panel (4) is by heat sealing or bonding of the exposed area.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 7, in which as defined in claim 7, wherein the hole is formed in an inner part (11) of the tab and the patch (8) comprises an outer part (10) of the tab portion of the peelable lid structure, the method further comprising folding the outer part of the tab over an inner part of the tab, thereby covering the hole and forming the exposed area.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) [[A]] ~~The method according to claim 7, further comprising: as defined in claim 7, wherein~~ folding an outer part {10} of the tab over an inner part {11} of the tab so that the patch {8} is disposed between the outer and inner parts of the tab; and fixing the outer part {10} of the tab to the inner part {11}.

Claim 10. (New) The peelable lid structure as defined in claim 2, wherein the peelable lid structure includes one or more of the following layers: polyethylene terephthalate (PET), aluminum, nylon and/or polypropylene.